Fennell, Arthur Bertram

November 1917

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France, Nov 7th 1917

Dear Sir Robert,

I appreciate very much your letter and the very great compliment you paid me by mentioning me by name in your address at the opening of term. I am afraid Hooder exaggerated very much when he described me as he does. I assure you I am very much of a coward and never take useless risks. My dim recollections of the Theory of Probabilities comfort me when I reflect that the fact I have been here for 17 months does not increase my chance of being hit to-morrow, although the fundamental assumption that the risk remains as the time exposed appears a bit disconcerting at first. I hope that the Dean of the Faculty of Arts agrees with my deductions.

George Smith and I keep running across each other every month & so and exchange stores of gossip and experiences. He is doing most interesting work on Heavy Artillery Counter battery work and has issued a list of tips which have come straight from H.Q., some of which come true and some don't. He is just the same ardent enthusiast and

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we have difficulty in persuading each other to keep still long enough to carry on a conversation.

The news from Canada is most encouraging. I hope the Union government will really prove to be one. The Cabinet promises well and apparently Conscription is being put into force seriously. I tell you, Sir, any man who has had the honour of serving in the Canadian Army in France may feel the greatest pride in the achievements of our Corps; and Canadians at home may feel that their soldiers have made a reputation second to none at the front. With this record already established, it would be the greatest misfortune if the nation should suffer from internal dissention and hamper our activity here by insufficient support and sympathy.

Just when the end of the war will come I cannot offer an opinion about. You will remember that I was very pessimistic, or at least not optimistic when I wrote last, and I am still convinced that the war is not near an end. We may consider ourselves fortunate to have the Americans with us. In addition to their enormous resources of men and money which will be of the greatest

value to the Allied Cause, I hope that the greatest result of their coming will be an permanent and lasting friendship between them and us in which the petty jealousies and dissensions of a Century ago may be forgotten and the two Anglo-Saxon nations united will make another world war impossible.

In reading over my letter I find I have written extravagantly for me but we are all in a perfect jubilant state of mind to-night as you may understand when you note the date and perhaps apt to think better of ourselves than we ought.

With kindest regards,
Yours Sincerely
Arthur B Flowers

Lieut. Arthur Bertram Fennell, (Toronto)-

Military Cross.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as brigade signalling officer. All of his linesmen except one having become casualties, he personally with the remaining linesman went out with reels of wire under intense artillery and machine-gun fire and got communication through at a critical time. During the operations he took no rest, but remained continually on duty in the shelled area. He accomplished splendid work all the time at great personal risk and under tremendous disadvantages.